

Disclosure-Field of the Invention

~~Background of the Invention~~Prior Art

The results of investigations directed to the understanding of pathogenesis of mental disorders have shown that a disorder in the serotonin equilibrium plays an important role in various diseases. The monoamine-deficiency hypothesis was one of the first explanations, wherein the symptoms of depression were connected to a reduction in the neurotransmission of monoamines, especially serotonin (5-HT) and noradrenaline, which was also confirmed by neurochemical tests as well as by a successful treatment of the patients with substances increasing monoaminergic neurotransmission (*Expert Opin. Investig. Drugs* **2003**, 12, 531-543). In addition to the serotonergic and noradrenergic systems, a very important role in CNS in the CNS function disorders is also played by the

dopaminergic system. The understanding of the exact role and of the interactions of these neurotransmitter systems is made rather difficult by the great number of receptor subtypes and their pharmacological complexity. Thus, it has been observed that e.g. dopaminergic neurotransmission is regulated by 5-HT_{2A} receptors (L. G. Spampinato, *J. Neurochem.* **2000**, *74*, 693-701) and hence 5-HT_{2A} receptors may also be the target receptors in treating diseases and disorders, in whose pathology an important role is played by a disorder of the function of the dopaminergic system (psychoses and various addictions).

Glutamate receptors play a vital role in the mediation of excitatory synaptic transmission as one of the major excitatory neurotransmitters in ~~central~~the central nervous system (CNS). It is widely accepted that the $\sigma 1$ receptor ligands can modulate neurotransmission mediated by ~~central~~the central neurotransmitter systems, including glutamatergic/NMDA (F.P. Monnet, G. Debonnel, J.-L. Junien, C. de Montigny, *Eur. J. Pharmacol.*, **1990**, *179*, 441-445). Many pharmacological and physiological actions have been attributed to the $\sigma 1$ receptor. These include the regulation of IP3 receptors and calcium signaling at the endoplasmic reticulum, mobilization of cytoskeletal adaptor proteins, modulation of nerve growth factor-induced neurite sprouting, modulation of neurotransmitter release and neuronal firing, modulation of potassium channels as a regulatory subunit, alteration of psychostimulant-induced gene expression, and blockade of spreading depression. Behaviorally, the $\sigma 1$ receptor is involved in learning and memory, psychostimulant-induced sensitization, cocaine-induced conditioned place preference, schizophrenia and pain perception. Thus, it is hypothesized that the $\sigma 1$ receptor, at least in part, is intracellular amplifier creating a supersensitized state for signal transduction in the biological system.

~~For treatment of pathological CNS disorders and particularly for mental disorders, the most frequently applied medicines~~ For treatment of pathological CNS disorders and particularly in the therapy of mental disorders a significant role as the most frequently applied medicines is given to substances that, according to their structure, are polycyclic compounds (benzodiazepines, tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants, monoamino oxidase (MAO) inhibitors, selective inhibitors of serotonin reabsorption etc.).

A new area in pharmacotherapy was opened by introducing the novel tetracyclic antidepressant mianserin (Claghorn, J.; Lesem, M. D. *Prog. Drug Res.* **1996**, *46*, 243-262; Sperling, W.; Demling, J. *Drugs Today* **1997**, *33*, 95-102). Numerous tetracyclic derivatives showing pharmacological action in the treatment of the disorders of the neurochemical equilibrium ~~in CNS in the CNS~~ are disclosed in the literature. WO 99/19317, WO 97/38991 and US-U.S. 6,511,976 describe the manufacture of

tetracyclic derivatives containing tetrahydrofuran ring and the use thereof as substances having antipsychotic, cardiovascular and gastrokinetic actions. US-U.S. 4,145,434 discloses the manufacture of dibenzo(cyclohepta-, oxepino-, thiepino-)pyrrolidine and dibenzopyrrolidinoazepine derivatives as well as the use thereof as substances having a potential CNS action. The manufacture and a potential anxiolytic action of some tetracyclic isooxazolidine derivatives are disclosed as well (*Drugs Fut.* **2002**, 27, Suppl. A: C41; *Drugs Fut.* **2002**, 27, Suppl. A: P182, WO 96/14320, WO 96/14321). The introduction of a piperidine ring into a tetracyclic structure containing an oxepine ring resulted in the formation of the molecule Org-4428 showing an antidepressive action (Sperling, W.; Demling, J. *Drugs Today* **1997**, 33, 95-102). The molecule Org-5222 contains a pyrrolidine ring fused to an oxepine nucleus and is described as a potential anxiolytic and antipsychotic (Sperling, W.; Demling, J. *Drugs Today* **1997**, 33, 95-102). Some derivatives of 1,3-diaza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes and salts thereof as a novel class of compounds with antiinflammatory action are known as well (US-U.S. 3,711,489, US-U.S. 4,198,421 and CA 967,573).

Known are also 2-substituted dibenzoazulenes of tetrahydropyrazole class with substituents such as acylalkyloxycarbonyl, phenyl or substituted phenyls (Gansser C. et al., *Ann. Pharm.* **1984**, 41:465-471; or Olivera R. et al., *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2000**, 41:4353-4356 4357-4360). Further there are known examples of dibenzoazepines of pyrazole class substituted in 2-position with alkyl (Kawashiha K Takeda *Kenkysusho Ho* **1978**, 37:6-11, Fishou D et al., *Tetrahedron* **1984**, 40:5121-5133), phenyl or substituted phenyl (FR 2,504,140, EP 0063525).

~~However, art known medicines used in therapy of~~ however, the known medicines for pathological CNS disorders and particularly ~~in the therapy of~~ for mental disorders are associated with a wide range of adverse effects. ~~There is thus~~ Thus, there is a need for a safe and effective treatment of diseases and disorders of CNS.

In our earlier International publication WO 03/099822, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety as amended ~~with letter of~~ with a letter dated Aug. 27, 2004, we disclose compounds of 1,2-diaza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulene class, their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates, process and intermediates for preparation thereof as well as their antiinflammatory effects especially to the inhibition of tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) production and the inhibition of interleukin-1 (IL-1) production along with their ~~analgetic~~ analgesic action..

We have now surprisingly found that compounds from the class of 1,2-diaza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes as described in aforementioned specification are effective in the treatment of diseases and disorders of

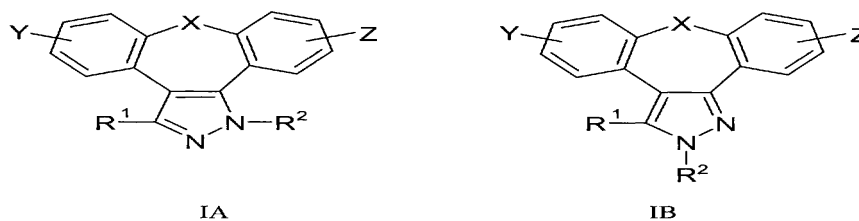
CNS. The present compounds are distinguished from the art-known tetracyclic compounds acting upon CNS (WO 99/19317, WO 97/38991; Sperling, W.; Demling, J. *Drugs Today* **1997**, 33, 95–102, Olivera R. et al., *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2000**, 41:4353–4356 4357–4360, Kawashiha K Takeda *Kenkysusho Ho* **1978**, 37:6–11, EP 0063525) by valuable pharmacological and physicochemical properties.

According to our knowledge, the use of 1,2-diaza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes and of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates disclosed in our earlier International publication WO 03/099822 ~~for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical formulation for~~ for the use in the treatment and prevention of diseases, damages and disorders of the central nervous system caused by disorders of neurochemical steady state has hitherto been neither disclosed nor suggested.

Summary of the Invention

Solution to the Technical Problem

The present invention ~~solves the problem of~~ provides for the effective treatment and prevention of diseases, damages and disorders of the central nervous system caused by disorders of equilibrium of biogenic amines. Accordingly, the invention relates to the use of compounds from the class of 1,2-diaza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes of the general formula **I**



I

wherein

X ~~means is~~ means CH_2 or a heteroatom selected from a group consisting of O, S, $\text{S}(=\text{O})$, $\text{S}(=\text{O})_2$ and NR^a , wherein R^a is hydrogen or a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_3 -alkyl, C_1 - C_3 -alkanoyl, C_1 - C_7 -alkyloxycarbonyl, C_7 - C_{10} -arylalkyloxycarbonyl, C_7 - C_{10} -aroyl, C_7 - C_{10} -arylalkyl, C_3 - C_7 -alkylsilyl and C_5 - C_{10} -alkylsilylalkyloxyalkyl;

Y and Z independently from each other mean one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_1 - C_4 -

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R³ and R⁴ simultaneously or independently from each other have the meaning of are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, aryl having the meaning of an aromatic ring as well as fused aromatic rings containing one ring with at least 6 carbon atoms or two rings with ~~totally~~ total of 10 carbon atoms and with alternating double bonds between carbon atoms; or together with N ~~have the meaning of~~ are heterocycle or heteroaryl wherein heterocycle ~~relates to~~ is a five-member or six-member fully saturated or partly unsaturated heterocycle group containing at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of O, S and N and where said heterocycle can be optionally substituted with one or two substituents which are selected from halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, amino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl; and wherein heteroaryl ~~relates to~~ is a aromatic and partially aromatic groups of a monocyclic or bicyclic ring with 4 to 12 carbon atoms and at least one of them being heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, S and N and where said heteroaryl can be optionally substituted with one or two substituents which are selected from halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, amino, *N*-(C₁-C₄) alkylamino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl;

n represents an integer from 0 to 3;

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The term "alkenyl" relates to alkenyl groups having the meaning of hydrocarbon radicals, which may be straight, branched or cyclic or are a combination of straight and cyclic ones or branched and cyclic ones, but having at least one carbon-carbon double bond. The most frequent alkenyls are ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl or cyclohexenyl.

The term "alkoxy" relates to straight or branched chains of alkoxy group. Examples of such groups are methoxy, propoxy, prop-2-oxy, butoxy, but-2-oxy or methylprop-2-oxy.

The term "aryl" relates to groups having the meaning of an aromatic ring, e.g. phenyl, as well as to fused aromatic rings. Aryl contains one ring with at least 6 carbon atoms or two rings with ~~totally~~ total of 10 carbon atoms and with alternating double (resonant) bonds between carbon atoms. The most frequently used aryls are e.g. phenyl or naphthyl. In general, aryl groups may be linked to the rest of the molecule by any available carbon atom via a direct bond or via a C₁-C₄ alkylene group such as methylene or ethylene.

The term "heteroaryl" relates to groups having the meaning of aromatic and partially aromatic groups of a monocyclic or bicyclic ring with 4 to 12 carbon atoms, at least one of them being a hetero atom such as O, S or N, and the available nitrogen atom or carbon atom is the binding site of the group to the rest of the molecule either via a direct bond or via a C₁-C₄ alkylene group defined earlier. Examples of this type are thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, tetrazolyl, pirimidinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolinyl or triazinyl.

The term "aroyl" group relates to aromatic acyl groups such as benzoyl.

The term "optionally substituted alkenyl" relates to alkenyl groups optionally additionally substituted with one, two or three halogen atoms. Such substituents may be e.g. 2-chloroethenyl, 1,2-dichloroethenyl or 2-bromo-propene-1-yl.

The term "optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle" relates to aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic groups which may be optionally additionally substituted with one or two substituents. The substituents may be halogen (preferably chlorine or fluorine), C₁-C₄ alkyl (preferably methyl, ethyl or isopropyl), cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy (preferably methoxy or ethoxy), thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio (preferably methylthio or ethylthio), amino, *N*-(C₁-C₄) alkylamino (preferably *N*-methylamino or *N*-ethylamino), *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino (preferably *N,N*-dimethylamino or *N,N*-diethylamino), sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl (preferably methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl (preferably methylsulfinyl).

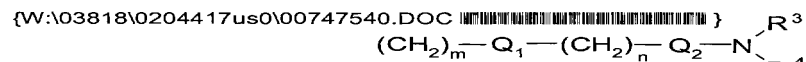
When X has the meaning of is NR^a, R^a relates to a hydrogen or group selected from the C₁-C₃-alkyl (preferably methyl or ethyl), C₁-C₃-alkanoyl (preferably formyl or acetyl), C₁-C₇-alkoxycarbonyl (preferably methoxycarbonyl or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl), C₇-C₁₀-arylalkyloxycarbonyl (preferably benzyloxycarbonyl), C₇-C₁₀-aroyl (preferably benzoyl), C₇-C₁₀-arylalkyl (preferably benzyl), C₃-C₇-

Depending upon the nature of particular substituents, the compounds of the formula **I** may have geometric isomers and one or more chiral centres so that there can exist enantiomers or diastereoisomers. The present invention also relates to use of such isomers and mixtures thereof, including racemates.

Whenever used hereinafter, the term “compounds of formula I” or “compounds of the present invention” is meant to also include the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts and solvates.

In another embodiment of the present invention preferred compounds of formula **I** are those wherein Y and Z independently from each other mean one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C₁-C₄-alkyl (preferably methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl), halo-C₁-C₄-alkyl (preferably trifluoromethyl), hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy (preferably methoxy), trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄-alkanoyl (preferably formyl or acetyl), amino, amino-C₁-C₄-alkyl (preferably aminomethyl), *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino (preferably *N*-methyl or *N*-ethyl), *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino (preferably dimethylamino or diethylamino), thiol, C₁-C₄-alkylthio (preferably methylthio), cyano and nitro.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention preferred compounds of formula **I** are those wherein R¹ has the meaning of is CHO, CH₂OH, or a substituent of the formula **II**:



R³ and R⁴ simultaneously or independently from each other have the meaning of are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl (preferably methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl), aryl wherein aryl has the meaning is as defined above; or together with N have the meaning of are heterocycle or heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of morpholine-4-yl, piperidine-1-yl, pyrrolidine-1-yl, imidazole-1-yl and piperazine-1-yl;

m represents an is an integer from 1 to 3;

n represents an is an integer from 0 to 3;

Q₁ and Q₂ independently from each other have the meaning of are oxygen or CH₂ group; or

In yet another embodiment of the present invention the specifically preferred compounds of formula **I** are:

2-(8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-1-yl)-ethanol;
2-(8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-2-yl)-ethanol;
2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-1-yl)-ethanol;
2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-2-yl)-ethanol;
(2-phenethyl-2H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-3-yl)-methanol;
(2-phenethyl-2H-8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-3-yl)-methanol;
[2-(2-trimethylsilyl-ethoxymethyl)-2H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-3-yl]-methanol;
[2-(2-trimethylsilyl-ethoxymethyl)-2H-8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-3-yl]-methanol;
[11-chloro-2-(2-trimethylsilyl-ethoxymethyl)-2H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-3-yl]-methanol;
dimethyl-{2-[2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-1-yl)-ethoxy]-ethyl}-amine;
dimethyl-{3-[2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-1-yl)-ethoxy]-propyl}-amine;
dimethyl-{2-[2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-ethoxy]-ethyl}-amine;
dimethyl-{3-[2-(8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-ethoxy]-propyl}-amine;
dimethyl-[2-(2-phenethyl-2H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;
dimethyl-[3-(2-phenethyl-2H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;
dimethyl-[2-(2-phenethyl-2H-8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;

[illegible]

The compounds of the present invention are especially effective in treating those diseases and disorders where the neurochemical equilibrium of biogenic amines such as serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine was disturbed and which may be caused by unbalanced (too big or too small) synthesis, irregularities in storing, releasing, metabolizing and/or reabsorption of a certain neurotransmitter.

In another embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula I, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to 5-HT_{2A} serotonin receptor in the concentration expressed as an IC₅₀ value less than about 200 nM and having K_i value less than about 100 nM.

It has been found that the compounds of the present invention exhibit a significant binding affinity to the $\sigma 1$ receptor.

In another embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula I, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to the σ_1 receptor in the concentration expressed as an IC_{50} value less than about 200 nM and having K_i value less than about 100 nM.

In view of the above explained favourable biological properties of the compounds of the present invention administration of the therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I provides

an effective method of treatment of CNS diseases and disorders associated with fewer side effects due to their improved selectivity towards the $\sigma_{1\sigma 1}$ receptor and the 5-HT_{2A} and 5-HT_{2C} serotonin receptors.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

In general, the compounds of the present invention may be used ~~for the manufacture of~~ pharmaceutical formulations that are used as antidepressants, anxiolytics, antipsychotics or as drugs for treating migraine.

Further, the compounds of the present invention may be used ~~for the manufacture of~~ pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of diseases and disorders which are the result of disorders of neurochemical equilibrium in the central nervous system such as e.g. depression and modest depression, anxiety, bipolar disorders, sleeping disorders, sexual disorders, psychoses, borderline psychoses, schizophrenia, migraine, personality disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorders, social phobias or panic attacks, organic mental disorders in children, aggression, memory disorders and personality disorders in elderly people, addiction, obesity, bulimia and similar disorders, snoring, premenstrual troubles.

Likewise, these compounds may be used in the treatment and/or prevention of CNS damage caused by trauma, brain stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular disorders such as high blood pressure, thrombosis, infarct and similar diseases as well as in gastrointestinal disorders.

The effective dose of the active substance of the present invention and of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof depends on the efficacy of the compound of the general formula **I**, on the nature and the severity of the disease and the disorder of CNS as well as on the body weight of the patient treated and may be from 0.001-10 mg/kg body weight. In any case a unit dose for an adult of an average weight of 70 kg is understood to be 0.07-1000 mg of the compound of the general formula **I** or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof. A unit dose may be administered once or several times daily, e.g. 2, 3 or 4 times daily, most frequently 1 to 3 times daily.

The present invention more specifically relates to an effective dose of the compounds, which bind to serotonin, sigma, adrenergic, dopamine or muscarinic receptors and/or act as inhibitors of reabsorption of one or more biogenic amines (serotonin, dopamine, norepinephrine).

Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts are formed with metals or amines, such as alkali and alkaline earth metals or organic amines. Examples of metals used as cations are sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and the like. Examples of suitable amines are N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, dicyclohexylamine, ethylenediamine, N-methylglucamine, and procaine.

The base addition salts of said acidic compounds are prepared by contacting the free acid form with a sufficient amount of the desired base to produce the salt in the conventional manner. The free acid form may be regenerated by contacting the salt form with an acid and isolating the free acid.

Preferred pharmaceutically acceptable salts according to invention relate to salts of hydrobromic, hydrochloric, perchloric, sulfuric, maleic, fumaric, tartaric, citronic, benzoic, mandelic.

The phrase “pharmaceutically acceptable”, as used in connection with compositions of the invention, refers to molecular entities and other ingredients of such compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce untoward reactions when administered to a mammal (e.g., human). Preferably, as used herein, the term “pharmaceutically acceptable” means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia or other generally recognized pharmacopeias for use in mammals, and more particularly in humans.

The term "carrier" applied to pharmaceutical compositions of the invention refers to a diluent, excipient, or vehicle with which an active compound is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, such as water, saline solutions, aqueous dextrose solutions, aqueous glycerol solutions, and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. However, since memantine is highly soluble, aqueous solutions are preferred. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences" by E.W. Martin, 18th Edition. Particularly preferred for the present invention are carriers suitable for immediate-release, i.e., release of most or all of the active ingredient over a short period of time, such as 60 minutes or less, and make rapid absorption of the drug possible.

The pharmaceutical formulations are obtained by blending a therapeutically active amount of a certain substance as the active ingredient with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, which may have

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To improve the solubility and/or stability of the present compounds, in pharmacological formulations there may be used α -, β - or γ -cyclodextrins or derivatives thereof, especially hydroxyalkyl substituted cyclodextrins i.e. 2-hydroxypropyl- β -cyclodextrin. Cosolvents such as e.g. alcohols may also improve the solubility and/or stability of the present compounds in various pharmaceutical formulations.

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"Treating" or "treatment" of a state, disorder or condition includes:

- (1) preventing or delaying the appearance of clinical symptoms of the state, disorder or condition developing in a mammal that may be afflicted with or predisposed to the state, disorder or condition but does not yet experience or display clinical or subclinical symptoms of the state, disorder or condition,
- (2) inhibiting the state, disorder or condition, i.e., arresting or reducing the development of the disease or at least one clinical or subclinical symptom thereof, or
- (3) relieving the disease, i.e., causing regression of the state, disorder or condition or at least one of its clinical or subclinical symptoms.

The benefit to a subject to be treated is either statistically significant or at least perceptible to the patient or to the physician.

A "therapeutically effective amount" means the amount of a compound that, when administered to a mammal for treating a state, disorder or condition, is sufficient to effect such treatment. The "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, the disease and its severity and the age, weight, physical condition and responsiveness of the mammal to be treated.

Dosages and administration regimen can be adjusted depending on the age, sex, physical condition as well as the benefit achieved by applying the compounds of the present invention and the side effects in the patient or the mammalian subject to be treated and the judgement of the physician, as is appreciated by those skilled in the art.

The term host or subject in need thereof as used herein refers to a mammal preferably a human.

Biological Assays

The effect of the compounds of the present invention on the neurochemical steady state was determined by *in vitro* investigations such as a radionuclide-marked radioligand binding assay for 5-HT_{2A} (Bonhaus D.W. Br. *J. Pharmacol.* **1995**, 115:622; Saucier C. *J. Neurochem.* **1997**, 68:1998) and 5-HT_{2C} receptors (Wolf W.A. *J. Neurochem.* **1997**, 69:1449), *in vitro* binding assay for the $\alpha_1\beta_1$ receptor (Thomson W. and Donn R. *Arthritis Res.* **2002**, 4: 302-306) and by *in vivo* investigations in a tail suspension test (Vogel H.G. and Vogel W.H. *Drug Discovery and Evaluation Pharmacological*

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A small concentration of a radioligand having a great affinity for binding to a receptor was incubated with a tissue sample enriched with a certain receptor (1-5 mg of tissue) in a buffered medium (0.2-5 mL). Recombinant human HT_{2A} and HT_{2C} receptors were expressed in CHO-K1 or COS-7 cells and were also used for competitive binding. During incubation the radioligand bound to the receptor. When a binding balance was achieved, the receptors to which the radioligand was bound were separated from those to which said ligand was not bound, and the radioactivity of the receptor/radioligand complex was measured. The interaction of the tested compounds with receptors was tested in competitive binding experiments. Various concentrations of tested compounds were added to the incubation mixture containing a prepared tissue enriched with corresponding receptors and the radioligand. The radioligand binding was inhibited by the test compounds proportionally to the affinity of a certain compound for the receptor and to the concentration of the compound.

The radioligand used for the determination of binding to 5-HT_{2C} receptor was [³H]-mesulergine and the tissue used was choroid plexus or recombinant 5-HT_{2C} receptor expressed in CHO-K1 cells.

Compounds showing IC₅₀ and K_i in concentrations values lower than 1 µM, were considered to be active.

Compounds: [2-(11-chloro-1H-8-oxa-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine, dimethyl-[3-(1H-8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine and dimethyl-[3-(2-phenethyl-2H-8-thia-1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-3-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine showed binding affinity to 5-HT_{2A} and 5-HT_{2C} serotonin receptors expressed as IC₅₀ value less than 200 nM and Ki value less than 100 nM.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

Binding of different radiolabeled ~~ligands~~ligands to Jurkat cell membranes was measured as described previously (Ramamoorthy et al., 1995). To characterize the σ binding sites in the Jurkat cell line, [³H]haloperidol as first used as the ligand. Haloperidol is a high affinity ligand to both type 1 and type 2 σ -receptors. The binding assays were done using Jurkat cell membranes in the presence of [³H]haloperidol (10nM) alone to determine the total binding, and in the presence of [³H]haloperidol (10nM) and unlabeled haloperidol (10 μ M) to determine the nonspecific binding.

Compounds showing IC₅₀ and K_i in-concentrations values lower than 1 μM, were considered to be active.

Forced swim test in mice

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a carrier.

Male Balb/cJ mice of the weight of 20-25 g were used for the experiment. Groups of 9 animals were treated with the test compounds, imipramine (positive control) or the vehicle (negative control) by intraperitoneal injection, subcutaneous injection or per oral by gavage 30 min prior to testing to measure potential antidepressant activity. Mice were suspended from their tails at a height of about 90 cm and were observed for 5 minutes. The mice hanging fully motionless for 1 minute during the observation period were defined as depressive. In animals treated with a substance having an antidepressive action the period of immobility was shortened.

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a vehicle. Significance of results was analysed using Fischer's exact test.

The compounds that in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced the immobility of animals for 40% and more over a control group were considered to be active.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

Male Swiss OFA mice of a weight 30-35g were treated with either vehicle (saline) or test compounds 30 minutes prior to hyperlocomotion induction. Dexamphetamine sulphate was administered intraperitoneally at 2mg/kg. Thirty minutes later, animals were placed in a wooden box 80 x80 cm in a room with low light intensity (100 lux) for locomotor activity recording. Locomotor activity was determined during a 30 min period using a video image analyzer. Total duration of movement, occurrence of movement and total distance travelled were measured. Haloperidol was tested at the dose of 0,25 mg/kg (prepared in 0,5% ~~methylcellulose and methylcellulose~~ and served as reference substance.

Compounds were considered as active if in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced amphetamine-induced hyperlocomotion in experimental animals for 30% and more when compared to vehicle treated control group.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

Meta-chlorophenyl piperazine (m-CPP) test on rats

The tested substance was administered to rats per os 1 hour before the test and m-CPP in a dose of 1 mg/kg was administered intravenously 15 minutes before the test. At the beginning of the experiment the treated animals were subjected to an open field test on rats (*Drug Dev. Res.* **1989**, 18, 119-144): the apparatus consisted of an open box having the dimensions 80 x 65 x 35 cm, which in one wall had an opening with a diameter of 10 cm, by which it was connected to a non-illuminated compartment having the dimensions 25 x 21 x 21 cm, and the opening was illuminated by a light source (IR source or Kleverlux®; 12V/20W) from the distance of 66 cm; one hour after administering the tested substance, the animals were placed in the dark (non-illuminated) compartment so that their heads were turned away from the illuminated exit and the passing of the animals from the dark compartment to the bright one was measured for 10 minutes.

As an active dose of the substance there was defined a dose at which the effect induced by m-CPP was reduced for 40% and more.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

Apomorphine, tryptamine, norepinephrine (ATN) test in rats

At the beginning of the experiment (t=0) the animals were injected intravenously by 1.25 mg/kg of apomorphine, then by 40 mg/kg of tryptamine (t=60 minutes) and by 1.25 mg/kg of norepinephrine (t=90 minutes).

There were watched a state of exceptional agitation and normal behaviour during 60 minutes (apomorphine test), then bilateral (two-sided) clonic convulsions of back paws (legs) and a general tremor of the body in tryptamine test (observation period 5 minutes) and lethality during 120 minutes after the injection in norepinephrine test.

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a carrier.

The compounds which in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced the period of duration of observed effects (mobility) for 40% over a control group were considered to be active in *in vivo* testings.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

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Some of the present compounds tested in the above assays showed an action in at least two of said tests, though these results represent only an illustration of the biological action of the compounds and do not limit the present invention in any way.

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